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Letter dated 10 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 31 December 2010 addressed to you by Hilmi Akil, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 January 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

31 December 2010

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 5 December 2010, addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/65/609-S/2010/622), which yet again contains well-known allegations of violations of "international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus", and to bring to your kind attention the points below.

In response to such pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, such allegations are based on the false and illegitimate claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim by the Greek Cypriot side is divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile for as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to give in to their demands. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating for itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

The Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded, once again, that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its continued denial of the Turkish Cypriot sovereignty in the North of the island does not bode well for the prospects of a settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, namely a partnership based on bizonal, bicommunal federation with the political equality of the two constituent States. The continuation of these allegations while the two sides are preparing to meet the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Geneva for a second time to achieve progress in the settlement negotiations, clearly weakens the spirit of trust and partnership between the two sides that will be necessary to achieve a lasting solution on the island.

I also deem it imperative to point out that the continuous allegations by the Greek Cypriot administration challenging the Turkish Cypriot sovereignty rights on the island, inspire and encourage hostility towards the Turkish people among the Greek Cypriot community, as exemplified by the increase in the number of violent

attacks in the last months against the Turkish Cypriot people, even in peaceful social events such as concerts and basketball games. Instead of focusing its energy on generating further hostility against our people, the Greek Cypriot leadership must heed the call of the Secretary-General in his report (S/2010/603), and "improve the public atmosphere in which the negotiations are proceeding", including by "focus[ing] messages on convergences and the way ahead", and "deliver[ing] more constructive and harmonized messages".

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hilmi **Akil**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus